Pale Swallowwort

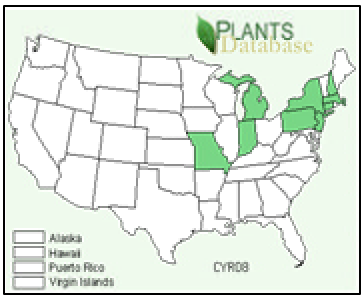
Cynanchum rossicum (Vincetoxicum rossicum)

Pale swallowwort is an invasive plant -- as a perennial vine, it can grow over other vegetation, strangling or shading out native plants.

- **Family**: Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)
- **Height**: 3-5 feet
- **Flower size**: 1/8 inch across
- **Flower color**: dark red, dark pink, or yellow-brown
- **Flowering time**: June to September
- **Origin**: Europe

Habitat - Plants are commonly found in roadsides, fields, edges of woods, pastures, fence-rows, rocky areas and disturbed sites. They have a wide tolerance to light and moisture conditions, but are not found in standing water. Many large populations are found in areas with shallow soil over limestone bedrock.

Spread - Mainly spread by wind dispersed seeds. Fallow fields are quickly taken over by swallow-wort, impeding succession and providing a seed source for nearby natural areas.



Distribution: In the United States, Pale swallowwort has been reported in Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Threats: *Cynanchum rossicum* is a vine that can grow rapidly over native vegetation. It has the ability to dominate the understory of woodlands. Wind-dispersed seeds allow it to disperse over long distances. When cut, this plant resprouts vigorously, making control difficult.

Reference:

- Connecticut Botanical Society www.ct-botanical-society.org
- Invasive Plant Council of New York State www.ipcnys.org/invasive_species
- Invasive Plants of New England http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane
- USDA Plant Database http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=noxious.cgi